

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2-21 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 22-46 as follows:

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---22. A method of treating at least one of diabetes and complications arising from diabetes in a subject in need of such treatment, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

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23. The method of claim 22, wherein the subject is a mammal.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the mammal is a human.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises straight chain polylactic acids.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises cyclic polylactic acids.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein the polylactic acids comprise L-lactic acid repeating units.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the polylactic acids consist essentially of L-lactic acid repeating units.

31 29. The method of claim 24, wherein the diabetes is type II diabetes.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises a fraction obtained by a process which comprises condensing lactic acid by dehydration under an inactive atmosphere, subjecting the ethanol- or methanol-soluble fraction of the obtained reaction solution to reverse phase column chromatography, and eluting with 25 to 50 weight % acetonitrile aqueous solution of pH 2 to 3 and then with 90 weight % or more acetonitrile aqueous solution of pH 2 to 3.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the dehydration comprises stepwise decompression and temperature rise under nitrogen gas atmosphere.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the reverse phase column chromatography

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comprises ODS column chromatography.

33. A method of preventing diabetes in a subject, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the subject is a mammal.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the mammal is a human.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises straight chain polylactic acids.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein the mixture of polylactic acids comprises cyclic polylactic acids.

38. The method of claim 34, wherein the polylactic acids comprise L-lactic acid repeating units.

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39. The method of claim 35, wherein the polylactic acids consist essentially of L-lactic acid repeating units.

40. The method of claim 35, wherein the diabetes is type II diabetes.

41. A method of preventing complications arising from diabetes in a subject, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

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42. A method of reducing the blood sugar level in a subject, wherein the method comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of a mixture of polylactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 19.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the subject is a human.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein the polylactic acids consist essentially of L-lactic acid repeating units.

45. The method of claim 43, wherein hyperglycemia is treated.